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### Overview

This bill relates to the Minnesota Rail Service Improvement (MRSI) program administered by MnDOT. It (1) establishes a new grant category for rail improvement or rehabilitation grants following specified eligibility and prioritization conditions, and (2) appropriates \$4.5 million from the general fund for grants under the new category.

#### Section

- 1 Grants; freight railroad preservation and improvement.** Creates a new category of freight railroad rehabilitation and infrastructure improvement grants under the Minnesota Rail Service Improvement (MRSI) program. Requirements under the grants include:
  - ▶ Grant eligibility for class II and class III railroads, local governmental units, and shippers (regardless of rail facility ownership);
  - ▶ Prioritization of awards based on (1) capital improvement or rehabilitation projects to improve service, (2) projects on segments experiencing low rail service use, and (3) more than 20 percent of the funding coming from non-state and non-federal sources; and
  - ▶ A grant maximum at 80 percent of project costs.
- 2 Freight railroad preservation and improvement grants; appropriation.** Appropriates \$4.5 million from the general fund in fiscal year 2018 for MRSI program grants under the grant category created in section 1. Makes the appropriation available for three years.